In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A web forming machine ~~as claimed in 21, and further~~ comprising:

a work station;

a selectively rotatable and moveable punch assembly positioned above, and in spaced relation relative to the work station, and wherein the rotatable punch assembly has an exterior facing surface, and a plurality of punches extending outwardly relative to the exterior facing surface thereof;

a punch movement assembly borne by the rotatable punch assembly, and wherein the rotatable punch assembly has an axis of rotation, and wherein the punch movement assembly is operable to move at least one of the plurality of punches along a course of travel which is substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the rotatable punch assembly to change the relative position of the at least one punch with respect to the rotatable punch assembly; ~~and~~

a selectively rotatable die assembly positioned below the work station and which is operable to matingly cooperate with the punch assembly, and wherein the respective punch and die assemblies are independently and selectively rotatable one relative to the other, and wherein the rotatable die assembly has an exterior facing surface, and wherein

a plurality of dies are positioned on the exterior facing surface of the rotatable die assembly, and wherein the individual punches are operable to mate with individual dies;

a die movement assembly borne by the rotatable die assembly, and wherein the rotatable die assembly has an axis of rotation which is substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the rotatable punch assembly, and wherein the die movement assembly is operable to selectively move at least one die along a course of travel which is substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the rotatable die assembly;

a punch orientation assembly borne by the rotatable punch assembly and which is operable in a first mode of operation to position at least one of the plurality of punches in a first position, and wherein at least one of the plurality of punches extend outwardly relative to the exterior facing surface of the rotatable punch assembly, and wherein the at least one punch orientation assembly has a second mode of operation where the at least one punch is moveable along a path of travel from the first position, to a second position, and where, in the second position, the at least one punch is positioned at or below the exterior facing surface of the punch assembly;

means for placing the punch orientation assembly in the first and second modes of operation;

a web of material selectively positioned in the work station, and wherein the punch assembly is moveable along a path of travel and into penetrating contact with the web and into mating relation relative to the rotatable die assembly;

a computer memory which stores at least one pattern of apertures which are to be formed in the web; and

a controller electrically coupled with the computer memory, and further controllably coupled with each of the rotatable punch and die assemblies, and further controllably

positioning the web in the work station, and wherein the controller selectively causes the independent rotational movement of the respective rotatable punch and die assemblies and the selective positioning of the web, and wherein the controller is further operably coupled in controlling relation relative to the punch and die movement assemblies, and the means for placing the punch orientation assembly in the first and second modes of operation, to selectively position the at least one punch and die in an appropriate orientation relative to the respective rotatable punch and die assemblies to facilitate the formation of the at least one pattern of apertures which is stored in the memory, and further causes the rotatable punch assembly to move along the path of travel and into penetrating contact with the web to form the at least one pattern of apertures which are stored in the memory.

23-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A web forming machine comprising:

a work station;

a ram mounted above the work station, and which has a distal end, and which is reciprocally moveable relative to the work station;

a punch assembly positioned above the work station, and mounted on the distal end of the ram, and which is further selectively rotatable relative thereto, and wherein the distal end of the ram carries the punch assembly along a reciprocal path of travel both into, and out of, the work station;

a die assembly positioned below the workstation, and which is selectively rotatable relative thereto, and wherein the respective punch and die assemblies are independently selectively rotatable one relative to the other;

a web of material selectively positioned in the work station, and wherein the punch assembly is carried by the distal end of the ram into penetrating contact with the web of material and into mating engagement with the rotatable die assembly; and

a controller which is controllably coupled with each of the selectively rotatable punch and die assemblies, and the fluid powered ram, and wherein the controller selectively and independently rotates the respective punch and die assemblies to given positions, selectively positions the web, and further causes the fluid powered ram to carry the punch assembly into penetrating contact with the web.

31. (Previously Presented) A web forming machine, comprising:

a reciprocally moveable ram having a distal end;

a selectively independently rotatable punch assembly mounted on, and rotatable relative to, the distal end of the ram;

a selectively independently rotatable die assembly spaced from the rotatable punch assembly, and

a controller operably coupled to the moveable ram, punch assembly and die assembly, and which selectively independently rotates the respective punch and die assemblies to a position and causes the moveable ram to reciprocate so as to carry the punch assembly into mating engagement with the die assembly.

32. (New) A web forming machines, comprising:

a work station;

a web of material selectively positioned in a work station;

an independently selectively rotatable and moveable punch assembly, having a plurality of moveable punches mounted above the web of material in the work station;

a punch movement assembly borne by the punch assembly, and which is operable to change the relative position of at least one punch with respect to the punch assembly;

a punch orientation assembly borne by the punch assembly and which is operable to selectively act upon at least one punch so as to cause the at least one punch to extend outwardly from, or be received within the punch assembly;

an independently selectively rotatable die assembly positioned in the work station and below the web of material;

a die movement assembly borne by the die assembly, and which selectively moves at least one die relative to the die assembly;

a computer memory which stores at least one pattern of apertures which are to be formed in the web; and

a controller which is operably coupled to the computer memory; punch assembly; die assembly; punch and die movement assemblies; and the punch orientation assembly so as to cause the punch assembly to selectively move into contact with the web, and into mating contact with the die assembly so as to form the at least one pattern of apertures in the web.